

EXPURGATED REPORT PROMPTS AN INQUIRY

Uncle Sam Paying Large Sum for Rented Quarters.

AUDITOR'S COMMENTS BARRED

Not Permitted to Quote ex-Secretary Cortelyou or Express His Own Views as to the Unwisdom of Separating Accounting Officers from Treasury and Endangering Files.

"The government is now paying approximately half a million dollars annually for rents in the District of Columbia for the use of buildings, mostly nonfireproof in structure, filled with equipment of a highly combustible nature, insanitary in their appointments, and a reflection on the dignity of the government.

"About eight millions of dollars has recently been expended in providing suitable quarters for offices for members of Congress, and both Senators and Representatives are surely interested in the amelioration of conditions affecting the health and general welfare of employees of the government who are required to live in the District of Columbia throughout the year.

"It is entirely probable that all that is necessary to obtain speedy relief from present conditions, involving both wasteful expenditures and the physical welfare of a large body of employees, is to get the facts thoroughly understood by the Congress.

"No better investment could be made by the government than to employ a portion of the \$47,377 now paid annually for rents in this city in the payment of interest on bonds to be issued for the purpose of providing funds for the erection of public buildings to meet the requirements of the executive departments."

From expurgated portion of the annual report of the Auditor for the Interior Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1909.

Not Allowed to Be Printed.

The report referred to above, prepared in September last by the then Auditor for the Interior Department, Robert S. Person, and which has just been published by the Government Printing Office, is interesting and remarkable for the censorship it has undergone rather than for the subject matter it contains in pamphlet form.

It is to be brought to the attention of Congress, probably during the present week, and a resolution of inquiry offered directing the appointment of the Superintendent of the Capitol and the Supervising Architect of the Treasury as a committee to investigate and report in detail as to the rentals paid by the government in Washington and the character of the buildings thus rented.

A conference was held at the Capitol yesterday, following a less formal conference on Saturday, when the expurgation of important features of the Auditor's report, presumably by order of high officials of the Treasury, was considered, and it was decided to bring it to the attention of the House.

One of the expurgated features of Auditor Person's report was the following reference to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury (Cortelyou) two years ago:

Cortelyou's Recommendation.

"In his annual report for 1908 the Secretary of the Treasury recommended the erection of a hall of records on a site (square No. 12), situated between Eighteenth and Nineteenth and E and F streets northwest title to which had been acquired under authority and direc-

Lansburgh & Bro.

420-426 7th Street.  
417-425 8th Street.

\$5.00  
Silk  
Petticoats,  
\$2.89

BLACK AND COLORS.

The reputation we have for these Petticoats is something any one would feel proud of. The number of calls for them the past week by ladies who could not get here last Monday convinces us that we will not be able to supply the demand to-day, as we could only get 250 from the maker this week. So would advise an early call. These Skirts are all cut full width, with full foundation and dust ruffle. They are made of an excellent quality taffeta come in all lengths. The actual value of this skirt is \$5.00. Special here to-day at \$2.89.

tion of the acts of Congress of March 3, 1909 (32 Stat., 1039 and 1212). In his report, at page 88, he referred to his letter of March 7, 1908, addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which he published as a part of his annual report. In this letter he said:

"The condition of these unrented files is precarious in the extreme. Some of them are stored in rented buildings which are not fireproof, and liable at any moment to be destroyed by fire. It must be borne in mind that reference is made to them almost constantly; that in most instances they pertain to questions of great importance; that they have been accumulating since the organization of the government; and that their destruction would cause almost irreparable injury, confusion, and delay in the transaction of the public business. They are now inaccessible for reference except with great labor, and at the same time are daily exposed to loss, decay, and accidents which may at any time destroy them, in whole or in part."

"The situation, with respect to the files of the office, is more hazardous now than when the Secretary of the Treasury made the report from which the foregoing excerpts are taken."

Removal of Auditor's Office.

The Auditor, in his report as originally prepared, called especial attention to the removal of his office from the Treasury Building to the Union Building, in G street, but his comments on this subject were wholly eliminated. The deficiency bill, approved May 30, 1908, contained items under "Contingent expenses, Treasury Department," appropriating \$12,000 for rent of the third and fourth floors of the Union Building "for offices of the Auditor for the Interior Department for the fiscal year 1909" and \$10,500 "for shelving and transferring records, furniture, files," etc.

The Auditor, in commenting upon this removal, said:

"On January 13, 1909, your predecessor in office, Secretary Cortelyou, wrote to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations requesting that the appropriation for the rental of the space provided for by the act approved May 30, 1908, supra, be authorized for use 'with out specifying any particular building, so that the Secretary of the Treasury would not be limited in his choice of suitable quarters.' Failing to secure this legislation, on February 10 the Secretary urgently requested, in a letter addressed to the committee of conference of the two Houses of Congress, that he be authorized to use the third and fourth floors of the

Union Building in his discretion 'for the accommodation of any other Treasury bureau or office in lieu of the office of the Auditor for the Interior Department,' and with that end in view requested that Senate amendment No. 102 to H. R. 2344, granting such authority, be agreed to in conference. But this request also was denied.

"The exigencies of the situation made it compulsory to obtain relief from congested conditions in the Treasury Building, and accordingly the pension division of this office, comprising about fifty employees, with its great volume of files, was removed in February, 1909. Subsequently, in compliance with your directions, dated May 12, 1909, the entire office of the Auditor for the Interior Department, with all of its files stored in the Treasury Building, was removed to the Union Building.

Should Be in Close Proximity.

"In his report for the fiscal year 1908, the Secretary of the Treasury (Cortelyou) recommended the erection of a separate building for the accounting officers of the Treasury, so that they all might be housed together. While nothing was said about the location of such a building, it is presumed that the Secretary had in mind a location in close proximity to the Treasury Building. Otherwise, it is inconceivable that he would have recommended a separate building for auditors, especially to make room within the Treasury Building for branches of the public service so artificially connected with the department as the Life-Saving Service, the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and the office of the Supervising Architect.

"The accounting offices are inherently a part of the Treasury system. Their relation to the division of bookkeeping and warrants is close and continuous. Their relations with the division of public moneys and the Treasurer of the United States are scarcely less so, and a separation of the auditors from the Comptroller of the Treasury by inconvenient distances impedes progress toward and is destructive of that uniformity of accounting which it has been assiduously attempted to promote during the past few years.

Awkward and Clumsy.

"That it is not in the interest of good or economic administration to separate the accounting offices of the Treasury from these various branches of the Treasury Department by any distance which makes free intercourse between them inconvenient is not a debatable subject. Indeed, it is indispensable to the public interest that all of the integral parts of the fiscal system of the Treasury Department shall be located with a view to maintaining their normal relations with each other without serious interruptions or inconveniences. No other branch of the public service is so closely related to and of necessity so continuously in communication with so many branches of the Treasury Department as the accounting offices. There probably is not an hour in the day when it is not either convenient or necessary for an auditor, a chief of division, or an accountant to visit either the division of bookkeeping and warrants, the division of public moneys, the Office of the Treasurer of the United States, or the Comptroller of the Treasury, and vice versa."

All these comments, however, were stricken out of the report, together with detailed illustrations showing how awkward and clumsy it was for the Auditor's office to transact its business in its new location, more than half a mile from the Treasury. He said:

Unsuited to the Work.

The purely administrative relations between the bureau and the department suffer an interruption incompatible with good business. In addition to these more serious objections of a general nature that are inseparable from the housing of any one of the auditors in a building far removed from the Treasury Building—with the exception of the Auditor for the Post-office Department, whose relation to the Treasury differs materially from that of all of the other auditors—there are specific objections peculiar both to the building in which this office is located and to its immediate environment.

It is not a fireproof building, and, therefore, is not suitable for the storage of files of valuable papers and documents. The building is not in other respects a suitable office building. Two lively stables are adjacent to it, and make an offensive approach to the building. Offensive smells from these stables, and other environments equally obnoxious, permeate the rooms where clerks are employed, especially during the heated season, and at repeated intervals during the short time the office has been in its present location have produced sickness among the employees. The building is not suitable for the accommodation of a high class clerical force of gentled men and women, and the environment is depressing upon the esprit de corps of the office, and seriously affects the efficiency of many of the employees.

All Stricken from Report.

But none of these statements was permitted to see the light. In the Auditor's report as printed he calls attention to the effective work done by the Keep commission and the increased efficiency resulting therefrom; shows that retrenchments in the office have been effected amounting to \$400,000, compared with 1907; urges a further readjustment by increasing the number of clerks at \$1,800 and \$1,600, but not increasing the gross appropriation, and strongly emphasizes the need of better pay for accountants. The work of the office is set out in detail.

Mr. Person retired on December 1 last, after a service of several years which won the hearty commendation of his superiors. Following his retirement, the entire office force united in a testimonial to him.

HUNGER TAMES WILD BIRDS.

English Pheasants Take to Chicken Yard Habits.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 23.—On account of the heavy snows, English pheasants placed in the woods by sportsmen, have been compelled to seek the farms for food.

The snow prevents them feeding from the ground, and they are not as resourceful as the American pheasants, which feed from the tree tops. Numbers of them are being harbored by the farmers of Pike and other counties, and are becoming tame enough to be fed with the chickens and other fowl.

As there is a \$25 fine for keeping any of these birds in captivity the game wardens are asking farmers having them to report, and those that do this will be absolved from fines when they are able to show that they are keeping the birds to prevent them starving and will release them when the spring comes. The game wardens report there is not much chance for the birds that remain in the woods.

Bull Upsets Whole Burg.

Danville, Pa., Jan. 23.—A twenty-months-old bull was the cause of U. E. Broese, a Madison Township, Columbia County, farmer, suffering a fractured collarbone here yesterday, the runaway of his team, and the chase of the bull by many persons.

Ocean Steamships.

New York, Jan. 23.—Arrived today: Cymric, Liverpool, January 12; La Touraine, Havre, January 15; Campania, Liverpool, January 18. Arrived out: Cedric, at Alexandria. Sailed from foreign ports: Umbria, from Queenstown; America, from Southampton; Statesdam, from Bologna.

SPECIAL OFFER!  
The Washington Herald  
(\$6.00 a year)  
and  
Van Norden Magazine  
(\$1.50 a year)  
BOTH FOR \$6.00 A YEAR.

The Mirror of World Color, World Life, World Action, Provides Each Month a Stimulus to Independent Thinking, by Giving You Unusually Fine Articles, Splendidly Illustrated, Written by the Ablest Specialists in Every Field of Social, Civic and Commercial Life.

True Stories of Live Romance, Adventure and Action

Hold the Reader's Intense Interest. "Lodging with a Rattlesnake" and "Baldwin and 'Bad Bill' Moran" in the Current Issue are Actual Experiences of Thrilling Adventure. Several Similar Fact Stories, More Entertaining Than Any Fiction, Appear Each Month.

Van Norden is Not a Financial Magazine

But in Each Issue the "Bargain Hunter" will have Bright, Practical Experiences to Relate and Sound Advice to Give in Connection with the Investment of Money.

The World's Action and Advance

is Clearly Pictured in Such Articles as "The Panama Blunder," "America's Growing Pains," "The Truth About Nicaragua," "The Awakening of Our Cities," "Young America an Inventive Genius," "The Revolt Against King Cotton," "The National Workshop," etc., etc.

Woman's Advance in National Movements

VAN NORDEN takes seriously the great national movement for Women's Suffrage. We believe that movement to be inevitable in its consummation in the United States—in fact, the world over—and that before many years have passed. We believe that women will play a stronger part than ever before in the world's affairs and in the government of nations. Every issue of VAN NORDEN contains Several Articles of Particular Interest Regarding the Activities of Women. "The Fight of Women for the Ballot," "Blights on Women's Clubs," "An Experiment in Scientific Motherhood" and "Society Women as Strike Pickets" all appear in the Current Number.

Splendidly Illustrated

VAN NORDEN is One of the Best Illustrated Magazines in America. To go through its Pages Monthly is to Review in Story and Picture the Things Worth While in the World's Progress. No Matter what other Magazines you take, You owe it to Yourself and Family to Have VAN NORDEN'S.

By special arrangement with Van Norden Magazine we are able to make the following remarkable offer to our readers. This offer is open for a limited time only, so fill out the coupon below and mail to us immediately.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD, delivered  
to your home for one year ..... \$6.00  
VAN NORDEN MAGAZINE, THE  
WORLD MIRROR ..... \$1.50  
Regular Price ..... \$7.50

All for only \$6.00.

Fill out the coupon and mail at once.

CLIP THIS COUPON NOW.

Publisher Herald, Washington, D. C.  
Inclosed find \$6.00, for which send The Herald for 1 year and Van Norden Magazine for twelve months, in accordance with your special offer.  
NAME .....  
STREET .....

The Cecilian  
Player Piano.

An instrument in a class by itself. If you take the trouble to compare its capabilities, its powers of expression, its ease of operation, with those of other players, you will readily admit that it has no rival. Its metal action renders it impervious to climatic changes, for there is no wood to warp or swell—a perpetual cause of trouble in some instruments.

A Mission Oak Cecilian

The only one of its style. Brand new. It has combination trackerboard, giving you choice of music from two catalogues.

Special price by license from the factory,

\$475. \$25 Cash and  
\$10 Per Month.

Including 12 rolls of brand-new music, or 50 rolls of used music from our library.

Our Mr. E. H. Droop has just returned from New York and Boston, where he visited the different piano factories and selected many fine instruments of the newest models. These have now commenced to arrive, and we shall be glad to have you come in and try them.

DROOP'S MUSIC HOUSE,

Steinway and  
Other Pianos, G and 13th.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

CONFORMABLY TO DUE WRITTEN REQUEST in that behalf, a special meeting of the stockholders of the Frontiers Relief Association of Washington, D. C., is hereby called, to be held at the office of the Association, No. 617 F street northwest, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, at the hour of 7:30 o'clock p. m. on FRIDAY, February 18, 1910, for the election of a Board of Directors of the Association for the current year and for the transaction of such other business of the Association as may lawfully be transacted at a special meeting thereof. JOHN BROSNAN, President.

OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON GASLIGHT COMPANY.

Washington, D. C., January 23, 1910. The annual meeting of the Shareholders of the Washington Gaslight Company, for the election of directors, and for such other business as may properly come before said meeting, will be held at the office of the company, Nos. 413-417 19th st. n.w., MONDAY, February 7, 1910, at 12 o'clock noon. The polls will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 1 o'clock p. m. WILLIAM B. ORME, Secretary.

Ruedesheimer Berg Auslese, 1895.

Unique quality of that celebrated German vintage. Output was divided between Bremen, Philadelphia and Christian Xander. 5th Ave. \$1.50 per bottle. Christian Xander's Family Quality House, 909 7th St. Phone M. 274. No branch houses.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that on and after this date Edward Floy Caverly will represent E. F. HUTTON & CO. as manager of their Washington branch office, Thomas L. Hume having withdrawn from the joint management to continue the local stock exchange business on his own account at 1201 F st. n.w. January 15, 1910. JALIS-10t

SALE OF PIANOS \$67.50 CASH

Weaver Bros., Upright Piano. Good tone and action. LAWRENCE'S, 506 10th. Tuning, \$1.50. Repairing.

"I NEVER DISAPPOINT."

My Patented Type-writer Letters are the greatest business-pulling advertisement you can employ.

BYRON S. ADAMS, PRINTER, 512 11th street.

Printing That Is Decidedly Superior.

This Big Print Shop, with its excellent equipment, can do your printing quickly, attractively, and at a reasonable charge.

Judd & Detweiler, Inc., THE BIG PRINT SHOP, 63-2 11TH.

Largest Morning Circulation.